

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05
AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01
H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04
USIA-06 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07
PA-01 PRS-01 IO-13 /132 W
-----150013Z 040703 /62

P R 142355Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0311
INFO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
ALL US CONSULATES IN MEXICO POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 1797

EO 11652 : GDS
TAGS : PFOR ENRG IR MX
SUBJ : IRANIAN EMBASSY ISSUES THREAT

1. IN AN UNUSUALLY HARSH STATEMENT MADE TO MEXICO'S LEADING NEWSPAPER, EXCELSIOR, THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES OF THE IRANIAN EMBASSY IN MEXICO CITY FARADJ PANAHY STATED THAT IRAN COULD WITHDRAW ITS MILITARY DEFENSES IN THE PERSIAN GULF IF A UNIFIED RISE IN THE OPEC PETROLEUM PRICE IS NOT ACHIEVED IN THE "NEXT FEW MONTHS." PANAHY WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT "THIS SITUATION CANNOT CONTINUE WITHOUT MY COUNTRY EXPERIENCING SERIOUS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS." IN THAT CASE "OUR MILITARY POLICY WILL HAVE TO BE MODIFIED" AND MILITARY PURCHASES SUSPENDED. THEREFORE, ACCORDING TO THE REPORT HE IMPLIED, THE US WOULD HAVE TO ASSUME THE COSTS OF THE DEFENSE OF THE PERSIAN GULF.

2. PANAHY ALSO REPORTEDLY STATED TO THE PRESS THAT THE CURRENT OPEC MEETING IN VIENNA IS DESIGNED TO FIND A COMPROMISE PRICE INCREASE - AROUND 7.5 PERCENT - BUT THE MEMBERS FEAR OPPOSITION BY SAUDI ARABIA "WHICH HAS BEEN STRONGLY
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PRESSURED BY THE US."

3. COMMENTING ON THE CURRENT GAS AND PETROLEUM SHORTAGE IN THE US, PANAHY CHARACTERIZED IT AS "NOT AN ENERGY CRISIS, BUT A PROBLEM OF DISTRIBUTION" SINCE NO ONE FORE- SAW THE CURRENT COLD WAVE.

4. PANAHY'S STATEMENT WAS OBVIOUSLY TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH THE BEHIND-CLOSED-DOOR OPEC SESSION GOING ON IN VIENNA. A SOURCE CLOSE TO PANAHY TOLD EMBOFF THAT PANAHY HAD DISCUSSED THE STATEMENT WITH HIM OVER A WEEK AGO. IT IS NOT KNOWN WHY THIS STATEMENT WAS ISSUED IN MEXICO OR IF IT IS PART OF A LARGER PLAN ON THE PART OF THE GOI TO PRESSURE THE US. EMBASSY WILL ATTEMPT TO DISCUSS WITH PANAHY AND WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFO TEHRAN COULD PROVIDE.
THOMPSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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